

Q3 7. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the biodegradable high molecular polymer containing the water-soluble low molecular compounds is [in advance] dissolved in [a] advance in an organic solvent.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the removing by extraction of the water-soluble low molecular compounds is conducted under stirring.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the removing by extraction of the water-soluble low molecular compounds is conducted at a temperature of about 0° to 90°C.

20 Add the following new claim:

Q4 11. The biodegradable high molecular polymer according to claim 1, which is produced by removing by extraction of water-soluble low molecular compounds from a biodegradable high molecular polymer containing not less than 0.01 mole of water-soluble low molecular compounds per 100 grams thereof, as calculated on the assumption that each of said compounds is a monobasic acid, using water or a mixture of water and an organic solvent readily soluble in water.--

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REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more accurately describe the claimed invention and to comply with the Examiner's requirements contained in the Office Action as explained below. New Claim 15 has been added, which is a product claim by the process that is described in Claim 4.

The pending claims in this case are 1-11 and 15. Claims 12-14 have been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement.

Applicants affirm the provisional election recited in the Office Action, without traverse.

Claims 4-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 because the phrase "removing... using water" is considered vague. Applicants have amended the claims by reciting that the "removing" is --by extraction-- as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.